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Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations

Letter dated 13 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion of an item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly to discuss the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations peacekeeping operations. It would be most appropriate for the matter to be allocated to the Fifth Committee for its consideration during the regular session.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum is attached to the present letter.

(*Signed*) Robert R. **Fowler**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 13 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Explanatory memorandum

The increased number and complexity of peacekeeping operations in today's environment has led Canada to conclude that Member States have an urgent obligation to convene a discussion of the peacekeeping scale of assessments during the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

An agenda item to discuss the peacekeeping scale of assessments would reflect the fact that, after 27 years, there is a clear need to update the method of apportioning expenses. In its resolution 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973, the General Assembly made ad hoc arrangements to finance the United Nations Emergency Force. It recognized that a different procedure was required from the one applied to the regular budget because those countries that are economically more developed are in a better position to make relatively larger contributions. Countries that are less economically developed have a more limited capacity to contribute to peacekeeping operations. The resolution also reflected the special responsibilities of those States which are permanent members of the Security Council. However, because the resolution created an ad hoc arrangement, it did not include any mechanism for reviewing the peacekeeping scale, unlike the procedure established for the regular budget, which is reviewed every three years.

Given the importance that Canada attaches to more efficient and effective implementation of peacekeeping mandates, we believe that it is necessary to initiate a review of the peacekeeping scale. Agreeing to do so at the forthcoming session of the General Assembly will ensure that the system will become more transparent, more equitable and less arbitrary.

Canada believes that the Fifth Committee would be the appropriate forum to consider this issue during the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.